

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-156 are pending in the application. Claims 5-13, 27, 34-38, 40-45, 47-136 and 149-155 were withdrawn. Claims 1-4, 14-26, 28-33, 39, 46, 137-148 and 156 were rejected. Claims 150-154 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim numbering

Applicants previously added claims 137-155. However, there were two claims numbered 146. Applicants apologize for this typographical error and have renumbered the second claim 147 with the remainder of the claims, including dependencies, renumbered through claim 156.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the introduction of new Figs. 22A-22D, 23 and 24 as new matter. It appears that the page numbers referenced as providing support for the new drawings were each off by one digit. Applicants regret any confusion caused by this inadvertent error. Support for Figs. 22A-22D is provided by page 81 of Appendix A which accompanied U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/478,035, a copy of which is attached to this response as **Exhibit A**. Support for Fig. 23 is provided by page 83 of Appendix A, a copy of which is attached to this response as **Exhibit B**. Support for Fig. 24 is provided by page 87 of Appendix A, a copy of which is attached to this response as **Exhibit C**. As noted in the Amendment filed July 14, 2006, the instant application claims priority from and incorporates by reference U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/478,035. Since FIGs. 22A-22D, 23 and 24 are fully supported by the aforementioned Provisional Application, the addition of these drawings does not constitute new matter. Applicants respectfully request that the Objection to the Specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Double patenting

Claims 1-4, 14-26, 28-33, 39, 46, 137-148 and 156 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,939,348. Claims 1-4, 14-26, 28-33, 39, 46, 137-148 and 156 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the pending claims of copending Application Nos. 10/665,974; 10/811,228; 10/873,348; 11/053,274; and 11/249,566.

Applicants enclose herewith terminal disclaimers with regard to each of the referenced Applications and patent. Accordingly, as no other rejections were stated, claims 1-4, 14-26, 28-33, 39, 46, 137-148 and 156 are believed to be in condition for allowance.


Applicants respectfully request that withdrawn method Claims 5-13, 27, 34-38, 40-45 and 149-155 be allowed as they depend directly or indirectly from Claims 1-4, 14-26, 28-33, 39, 46, 137-148 and 156 which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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